

Agency 303

Department of Health**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	1,265.7	118,917	661,980	780,897
Total Maintenance Level	1,308.5	126,169	739,104	865,273
Difference	42.8	7,252	77,124	84,376
Percent Change from Current Biennium	3.4%	6.1%	11.7%	10.8%
Performance Changes				
Hood Canal Water Quality		1,115		1,115
County Public Health Assistance			49,000	49,000
Washington Federation of State Employees Cost of Living Adjustment/Salary Survey		1,205	4,612	5,817
Service Employees International 1199 Cost of Living Adjustment		40	219	259
Super Coalition Health Benefits		570	2,222	2,792
Classification Revisions		3		3
Performance Pay		136	299	435
Nonrepresented Employees Cost of Living Adjustment		548	1,201	1,749
Nonrepresented Employees Health Benefit Change		131	306	437
Pension Method Change		(920)	(2,898)	(3,818)
Nonrepresented Salary Survey Implementation		486	2,119	2,605
General Inflation		(206)	(1,018)	(1,224)
Lead Surveillance	.9	195		195
Fircrest Infrastructure Reconfiguration		177		177
Public Disclosure Request Increases			523	523
TB Testing - MTD	2.4	580		580
WIC Caseload and Local Agency Support	2.3		368	368
Subtotal	5.6	4,060	56,953	61,013
Total Proposed Budget	1,314.1	130,229	796,057	926,286
Difference	48.4	11,312	134,077	145,389
Percent Change from Current Biennium	3.8%	9.5%	20.3%	18.6%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Administrative Activity	23.5	4,352	2,414	6,766
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	95.1	6,020	94,024	100,044
Drinking Water Protection	152.5	6,373	34,385	40,758
Emergency Preparedness and Response	64.7	7,872	48,799	56,671
Community Environmental Health	108.7	4,681	15,181	19,862
Identify and Track Disease and Risks to the Public	36.1	4,383	9,913	14,296
Shellfish and Food Safety	41.9	5,554	1,002	6,556
Strengthening the Public Health Network	87.4	12,204	86,450	98,654
Communicable and Infectious Disease	81.8	37,100	55,043	92,143
Family and Child Health	141.1	25,617	360,890	386,507
Public Health Laboratory	116.5	8,513	16,673	25,186

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Safety and Quality of Health Care Services	358.8	3,092	59,264	62,356
State Board of Health	6.4	1,052		1,052
Compensation Cost Adjustment		3,416	12,019	15,435
Total Proposed Budget	1,314.1	130,229	796,057	926,286

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Hood Canal Water Quality

Twenty-two of Washington's ninety-six commercial shellfish growing areas are threatened with closure, and harvesting is prohibited at seven areas because of bacteriological contamination. Additional funding and staff will increase technical assistance to Local Health Jurisdictions to develop and implement comprehensive, integrated management plans for long-term use of on-site sewage systems. Electronic databases will be established to inventory existing on-site sewage systems in counties with marine shorelines. This item will also increase the capacity for technical assistance on nitrogen reducing on-site systems and other advances in septic system performance.

County Public Health Assistance

State grant funding for local public health districts is provided to the Department of Health (DOH) to support protection and improvement of the public's health and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the public health system.

Funds are to be provided to local public health departments and districts through performance-based contracts to help attain the standards for public health and to implement the recommendations of the public health improvement plan. A monitoring and reporting mechanism will be established to demonstrate progress toward these goals. (Health Services Account-State)

Lead Surveillance

Between July 1994 and June 2004, lead surveillance activities were funded through a federal grant which is no longer available. Program activities include maintaining a surveillance system containing reports of all blood lead tests done on Washington state children, sending reports of lead-poisoned children to local health jurisdictions, sending reports of adults with high blood lead levels to the Department of Labor and Industries, and assuring that lead-poisoned children receive appropriate follow-up. The department, until July 2004, also provided public education information, brochures, and technical support to local health agencies. General Fund-State dollars will continue the program, but only at 80 percent of its federally-funded level. The department will prioritize program activities that achieve maximum public health benefit.

Fircrest Infrastructure Reconfiguration

The Shoreline Public Health Laboratory is located on trust property that also houses the Fircrest School. The Legislature has contemplated downsizing the Fircrest School. In the event that Fircrest School's operations are consolidated elsewhere, the public health laboratory will require alternative arrangements for utilities that are currently provided through the school. Further, the Shoreline Planning Committee will require a master plan for approval of capital projects beyond the current ones that fall within the facility's existing footprint. This item pays for a master-planning document for the property, and an engineering study of how to best provide access to utilities and services to the public health lab in the event of Fircrest School's closure.

Public Disclosure Request Increases

There is a lack of resources to manage the increased volume and complexity of public disclosure requests. Public awareness has increased due to the advent of the Internet-based Provider Credential Search, which, in turn, has created more public disclosure requests. Increased funding will enable the department to respond to these requests in an appropriate timeframe. (Health Professions Account-State)

TB Testing - MTD

Tuberculosis (TB), along with other infectious diseases, has significant fiscal impacts on local health jurisdictions (LHJs) since they pay for testing, education, and surveillance. Improved testing for, and surveillance of, infectious diseases (such as TB, Hepatitis C and others) allows DOH to lead the statewide public health response to these health threats. Capacity will be added in three primary areas: funding for the new, faster TB test - the Mycobacterium Tuberculosis

Direct (MTD) test - which can be completed in six hours rather than two to four weeks, improving early intervention; funding of TB genotyping which allows more accurate tracking and surveillance and supports nationwide control; and the addition of one epidemiologist. (General Fund-State)

WIC Caseload and Local Agency Support

Federal funds are available to expand expertise and capacity at the state Women, Infant and Children (WIC) office to fulfill state-level responsibilities. The official WIC program caseload increased on January 1, 2004, from 147,000 to 160,000 per month. The Department of Health supports local agency contractors in two primary ways: first with pass-through funding, and second with strong, effective operations and systems at the state level. (General Fund-Federal)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Administrative Activity

The administrative activity in the Department of Health (DOH) manages the day-to-day operations and leadership functions of the agency, including oversight, policy development, and communications.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Working with local health departments, community-based organizations and groups, and the media, the Department of Health provides resources, materials, and tools to help educate the public on how to be healthy and prevent disease and injury. Activities include tobacco prevention and control; addressing priority injury prevention; promotion of regular physical activity and proper nutrition; diabetes prevention and control strategies; cancer prevention and control, including early detection; and developing plans for cardiovascular disease prevention and control.

Drinking Water Protection

The Drinking Water program works with the State Board of Health, local water systems, and communities to make sure that drinking water is safe and reliable. Activities include monitoring water quality tests; conducting inspections of water systems; enforcing regulations and safety measures; assisting water systems during planning, design, and construction of new facilities and upgrades; training and certifying water system operators; assuring proper wastewater treatment; and providing funding for water system improvements.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Department of Health coordinates efforts to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies from natural disasters to bioterrorism threats. Activities include developing and maintaining state, regional, and local emergency response plans; providing training and exercises to emergency responders from risk communication to mass vaccinations; assisting and developing partnerships with local, regional, state agency, and tribal partners; providing public education activities; and increasing electronic communications between the department, local health, hospitals, and emergency response.

Community Environmental Health

The Department of Health works with public health partners and businesses to protect the community from hazards in the environment by educating the public about how to make and keep their environment safe and healthy; developing environmental public health standards for small and medium-sized septic systems and swimming pools; helping the public prevent disease spread by animals; monitoring sources of radiation and radioactive materials, and radioactive waste; providing resources to clean areas that have been contaminated by dangerous materials; monitoring and preventing pesticide-related illness; and helping communities minimize or eliminate exposure to contaminants in the environment.

Identify and Track Disease and Risks to the Public

The Department of Health conducts scientific tracking of disease and identifies public health risks. Activities include monitoring and tracking disease and health trends; assisting local public health in investigating and reporting disease outbreaks; providing science-based information to public health partners; and making recommendations to prevent disease and the spread of disease.

Shellfish and Food Safety

The Department of Health helps make sure that food served in restaurants and other food businesses is safe to eat. The department ensures that shellfish harvested from Washington waters is also safe to eat. Activities include monitoring local waters and beaches where shellfish grow for pollution and harmful toxins; developing public health standards for

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the safe sale and service of food; educating food service workers and the public on proper food safety; inspecting commercial shellfish companies; and investigating and controlling outbreaks of foodborne illnesses.

Strengthening the Public Health Network

The Department of Health works to strengthen its partnerships with public health, particularly those agencies at the community level. Activities include providing resources for emergency medical and trauma services; promoting access to health care in rural communities; increasing electronic communications between the department, local health partners, hospitals, and emergency respondents; instituting electronic reporting of disease; coordinating response to emerging health issues with federal, state, and local partners; providing resources for public health workforce development; offering certified copies of birth, death, divorce, and marriage records to the public; building and supporting information networks to provide data that helps people make good decisions about public health; and maintaining a strong relationship between state and local public health jurisdictions, in which needed information flows swiftly and responses to public health problems and threats are coordinated and effective.

Communicable and Infectious Disease

Working together with local health partners and other health agencies, the Department of Health works to protect the public from communicable and infectious disease, including sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and tuberculosis. Activities include educating the public on how to stay healthy and how to avoid contracting and spreading disease; monitoring the rate and frequency of infectious disease; assisting in the investigation of disease outbreaks around the clock; paying for drugs and limited medical care for eligible HIV clients; working with public health and health care partners to prevent and reduce the effects of communicable disease; and working with local health agencies to provide confidential testing.

Family and Child Health

With public health partners, the Department of Health promotes the health of pregnant women, infants, children, youth, and their families through providing prenatal care and education for parents; distributing vaccines for children; investigating and controlling vaccine-preventable disease; providing nutrition and health education for pregnant women; providing healthy food for people on the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program; and linking children and families to health services.

Public Health Laboratory

The Department of Health's Public Health Laboratories serve the public by providing accurate and timely laboratory results. The laboratories' around-the-clock, cutting-edge services are used by local health agencies, DOH programs, the state's health care system, and emergency response system. The laboratories test a range of specimens, including communicable disease, shellfish poisoning, foodborne illnesses, newborn screenings, and contamination of air, water, and food.

Safety and Quality of Health Care Services

The Department of Health works with oversight groups to regulate health care providers and ensure compliance with health, safety, and professional standards. Activities include licensing health care providers, licensing facilities, investigating complaints, disciplining health care providers who violate established standards, notifying the public of disciplinary actions, and maintaining the public history of disciplinary actions on the Internet.

State Board of Health

The State Board of Health, although housed within DOH, works independently advising the state on health policy and adopting rules that guide many public health functions. It works with input from public health partners, local government, consumers, and the public. Key areas of rule-making include vital records; disease monitoring, reporting, and control; childhood health screenings; school immunizations; and food and drinking water safety.

Compensation Cost Adjustment

This item reflects proposed compensation and benefit cost adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.